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## SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

The University of Illinois is to open a permanent station on the Illinois River for the biological study of the flora and fauna of the waters of the state. Havana has been selected as the location and suitable laboratory quarters have been obtained. Work will be begun in April and the station will be kept open throughout the year. The Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History and the State Fish Commission will co-operate and the whole will be under the direction of Professor S. A. Forbes. Professor Forbes has selected in the vicinity of Havana a set of typical situations which will be explored throughout the year and probably for several years in succession. The main object is the thorough investigation of the entire system of the plant and animal life of the waters of that region with principal reference to problems of œcology; above all to the effect of the periodical overflow and recession of the waters upon the variety, abundance and interaction generally of the various groups of plants and animals represented in those waters.

Some students may have the Leitz's Mechanical Stage. The following directions copied from the American Edition of Leitz's catalogue of Microscopes and Accessories published by Richards & Co. of New York *may* enable them to apply the apparatus to their stands. "The screw on the right must be lost so, that the lever, of the form of an arc of a bow, can turn around the axis at which it is fixed on the left. Afterward, the stage is to be put on the stage of the microscope so, that both angle pieces, opposite to the lever, drives the column of the stand; after putting the lever to its place, the screw gets fastened again. At last, the stage, must be fixed to the column, by drawing close the other screw, being in the middle part of the lever."

Dr. Edmund Beecher Wilson has been elected Professor of Zoology in Columbia College. He was previously adjunct professor of biology.

Dr. L. Will, well-known for his studies in Hexapod morphology, has been called to the chair of Zoology in the University of Rostock.

Dr. F. Ulrich, Professor of Mineralogy and Geology in the technical school at Hannover, died Jan. 25, 1894.

Dr. C. V. Riley has tendered his resignation as U. S. Entomologist, to take effect June 1, 1894. After that date his address will be U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

Dr. Alexander Theodor von Middendorff, possibly best known for his Siberian expedition, died at Hellmorm, Livonia January 28, 1894 aged 79 years.

Dr. Credner, who had been announced as the successor of Prof. H. B. Geinitz in the chair of Geology in the Dresden Technical school, will remain in Leipzig. The place will be filled by Prof. E. Kalkowsky of Jena.

The botanist O. L. Sillén of Gefle, Sweden, is dead.

Dr. Leopold von Schrenck, well-known for his explorations of the Amur basin, died in St. Petersburg, Jan. 20, 1894.

Dr. G. Linck, formerly docent, has been made Professor of Geology and Mineralogy in the University of Strassburg.

Dr. George Gordon, well-known to older naturalists, died in Edinburgh, Dec. 12, 1893, aged 92 years.

Prof. Edward Zacharias of Strassburg has been called to Hamburg as director of the Botanical Gardens.

Dr. A. Knop, Professor of Mineralogy in the technical school at Karlsruhe, died Dec. 27, 1893. Dr. R. Brauns of Marburg has been appointed extraordinarius in his place.

Richard Spruce, the student of South American Mosses, died at Malton, England, Dec. 30, 1893.

Dr. W. Migula has been called as Professor of Botany and Bacteriology to the technical school of Karlsruhe.

The trustees of the "Elizabeth Thompson Science Fund" have issued their circular for 1894 announcing that the income from the fund, now amounting to \$26,000 will be available for distribution in June next. Already nearly \$9000 have been distributed in past years to 46 applicants, and in 22 cases the results of work advanced by the fund have been published. This endowment is not for the benefit of any one department of science, but it is the intention of the trustees to give the preference to those investigations which cannot otherwise be provided for, which have for their object the advancement of human knowledge or the benefit of mankind in general, rather than to researches directed to the solution of questions of merely local importance." The Secretary

of the trustees is Dr. C. S. Minot, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.

Dr. Carl Grobben has been raised to the ordinary professorship of Zoology in the University of Vienna.

Dr. George Bennett, an Australian explorer and Naturalist, died at Sydney in October, 1893, aged 90 years.

Mr. August Carl Eduard Baldamus, the ornithologist, died in Wolfenbüttel, Oct. 31, 1893, aged 82.

Juan Vilanova y Piera, Professor of Geology in Madrid, died in the beginning of November.

C. von Gumpenberg, a student of the Lepidoptera, died in Bamberg, Germany, Nov. 5, 1893.

A. Halfar, Geologist of the Prussian Geological Survey, died in Berlin, Nov. 21, 1893.

Prof. Joseph Boehm, the well-known plant-physiologist, died in Vienna, December 2, 1893.

Dr. Tomquist has been made private docent in Geology and Palæontology in the University of Vienna.

Professor Arcangeli Scacchi, the student of Vesuvius, died in Napha, Oct. 11, 1893.

Dr. J. M. Undset, the investigator of prehistoric Scandinavia, died in Christiania, Dec. 3, 1893, aged 40 years.

George Primics, geologist, died in Belénges, Hungary, Nov., 1893.

H. J. Rink, whose work on Greenland is the handbook upon all Arctic questions, died in Christiania, Dec. 15, 1893.

Dr. Luigi Luciani has been called to the chair of Physiology at the University of Rome as successor to Moleschott.

Prof. W. Krause of Göttingen has been given charge of the collections of the I. Anatomical Institute at Berlin.

Prof. R. Altmann of Leipzig, has been called to the chair of Anatomy in Halle.

Dr. A. Heider, the Bacterologist, died in Vienna, Dec. 26, 1893.

Professor August Wrzesniowski, well-known for his Protozoan studies, died in Warsaw, December last.

The Wollaston medal of the Geological Society of London, has been given to Prof. K. A. Zittel, the Palæontologist of Munich.

**The Proposed Division of the National Academy of Sciences.**—The following letter explains itself. To the Committee appointed by the U. S. National Academy of Sciences, April, 1892, "to report such proposed modifications of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Academy as are likely in their judgment to increase its efficiency" etc., of which Prof. T. C. Mendenhall is chairman;

Gentlemen: I take the liberty of making some suggestions with reference to the classification of the Academy into divisions, which will in the writer's estimation "increase its efficiency" etc. This increase of efficiency is, in the writer's view, chiefly to be accomplished at present, by electing to membership persons competent in their professions, in such proportionate numbers as to represent properly those professions, as at present cultivated in the United States. At present the disproportion of membership in favor of some departments, and to the prejudice of other departments is great, as the following figures show. Of members which represent the physical sciences, we have now, according to the figures presented at the late meeting, (April, 1894), by your committee, 58; while but 31 represent the Natural Sciences. If the members which represent the proposed section F be added to the division of Natural Sciences, (which they should not be in a correct classification) the latter will include 39 members as compared with 58.

The Academy adopted, at its late meeting of April, 1894, two classes, I and II, those of the Physical and Natural Sciences. The former includes the proposed sections A, B, and C, of the committee's original plan; and the latter the proposed classes D, E, and F, of that plan. This primary division appears to me to be more convenient in practice than a closer subdivision, for the reason that a nearly equal division of membership between those two classes accords more nearly with the relative numbers of cultivators of those sciences in this country and in the world generally, than any other divisions that can be proposed. As a matter of fact the cultivators of the Natural Sciences are more numerous than those of the Physical Sciences, as the relative extent of the literature of the two divisions indicates. I do not suggest that this preponderance of the Natural Sciences shall be represented in the National Academy, but that there shall be an equality of representation of the two. In a closer subdivision the relative numbers of members of each division is more likely to be variable, or for various reasons more difficult to ascertain, and thus more likely to cause dissatisfaction from time to time.

The division into the two classes of the Physical and Natural Sciences does not, however, embrace all the sciences, and is hence defective. It does not take into account applied science, which it is necessary that we recognize, owing to our connection with the government. While we necessarily embrace members competent in this great field, we cannot open our doors to a large representation of it, since pure science is our principal aim. As most human industries are more or less perfectly applied science, we must necessarily strictly limit our membership in this direction.

The sciences which you have proposed to include in the class F, are Statistics, Hygiene, Philology and perhaps others. To these might be added the science of mind objectively studied, or Psychology, and also that of human industries treated historically and descriptively. This entire group (excepting Hygiene, which is applied science), differs from those of the Natural and Physical Sciences in that its subjects are penetrated and affected by the interference of the human mind.

I would therefore, propose the following division of the Academy's membership into four classes, two of which have been already adopted.

CLASS I.—Physical Science; (Sciences of energy); to include Physics, Astronomy, Chemistry, Physiology, and Dynamical and Chemical Geology.

CLASS II.—Natural Science; (Sciences of Morphology); Structural Geology, Mineralogy (apart from Chemistry) Biology (including Embryology and Paleontology).

CLASS III.—Anthropological Science (Sciences treating of phenomena determined by psychic conditions); Anthropology, Statistics, Philology, Psychology.

CLASS IV.—Applied Science. (Applications in the Arts of any of the Sciences previously enumerated); including Hygiene, Engineering, etc.

It will be observed that in the above classification geology is divided. This is inevitable, as the science is a composite one. Members might in this case choose whether they would prefer as geologists to be referred to Class I or Class II.

I would suggest that the members of each class be fixed as follows:

Class I, 35 members; Class II, 35 members; Class III, 15 members; Class IV, 15 members; total 100 members.

It seems to me that both comprehensiveness and simplicity may be claimed for the above proposition.

Very respectfully,

Philadelphia, April 21st, 1894.

E. D. COPE.